

Message

**From:** ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
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**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
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Maryland Engages with U.S. EPA on Lean, ECOS Weighs in on OECA Guidance

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## ECOSWIRE

Friday, June 14, 2019

Vol. 21 No. 23

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## **E-Enterprise for the Environment**

*E-Enterprise*



**E-ENTERPRISE**  
for the environment

*Modernizing the business of environmental protection*



*U.S. EPA Acting Deputy Administrator Henry Darwin  
offers opening remarks at Maryland DOE*

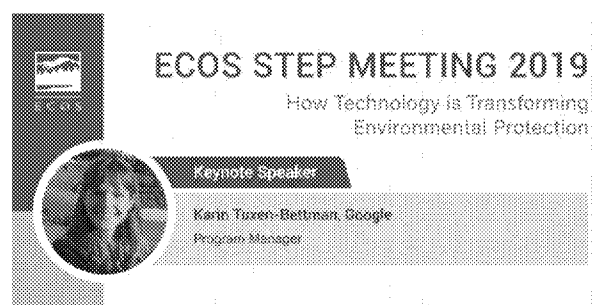
## **Maryland Department of Environment Explores Lean Management with U.S. EPA**

Building on discussions with U.S. EPA Acting Deputy Administrator Henry Darwin at the May E-Enterprise for Environment Leadership Council meeting, Maryland's Department of Environment this week hosted Lean experts from U.S. EPA for a two-day training on the EPA Lean Management System (ELMS). The ELMS Deployment Meeting introduced Maryland's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Industrial Discharge Permit team to the main Lean management concepts and tools within ELMS.

Over the course of the meeting, the team analyzed its permit review process through a SIPOC (Supplier-Input-Process-Output-Customer) exercise, selected quantitative measures and targets against which to gauge their performance, built flow boards and performance boards for visual management, and learned Lean problem-solving tools from the EPA trainers. Maryland graciously welcomed guest observers from EPA's Region 3 office and ECOS.

EPA plans to develop further information about its two-day ELMS training. If your state is interested in learning more or in hosting an ELMS deployment meeting, please contact [Owen McAleer](#) and [Beth Graves](#) of ECOS. [McAleer/Graves]

## Four Days Remain to Register Early, Reserve Hotel for STEP



Advance registration and the hotel room block are open until **June 18** for the July 10 ECOS State Environmental Protection (STEP) meeting in Washington, DC, on technology helping state environmental agencies to accomplish our missions. Entitled *From the Flintstones to the Jetsons: How Technology is Transforming Environmental Protection*, the meeting will feature keynotes from Google and Microsoft and lively panels with ECOS members and other experts. To borrow a term from Misael Cabrera of Arizona, you can do

some "R&D (Rip Off & Deploy)" at STEP as you hear about how other states are taking advantage of innovative technologies.

See the [ECOS website](#) to register and reserve, and contact Kelly Poole at [kpoole@ecos.org](mailto:kpoole@ecos.org) for more information. [Parisien]

## **ECOS Comments on OECA Guidance on Enhancing U.S. EPA-State Planning**

On June 12, ECOS submitted a [comment letter](#) on U.S. EPA's [guidance](#) on *Enforcement and Compliance: Enhancing EPA-State Planning and Communication*. The policy outlines expectations and best practices for joint work planning and effective communication, shared accountability, implementation of authorized programs and circumstances that warrant direct federal action, and the process for elevation of any issues.

"States appreciate the emphasis in the guidance on cooperative, periodic, and early joint planning and regular communication between EPA and the states and on a 'no surprises' principle," writes ECOS, which goes on to make a few recommendations.

The guidance draws both from [EPA's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) and the August 2018 ECOS Compliance Assurance Workgroup [recommendations](#), both of which highlight the importance of cooperative federalism efforts. For more information about the guidance and Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) efforts, see [here](#). [MacCartney]

## **U.S. EPA Selects Final National Compliance Initiatives**

Last week, U.S. EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) released a memorandum announcing its final selection of National Compliance Initiatives (NCIs) for the next cycle of FY 2020-2023. Assistant Administrator Susan Bodine highlighted the NCIs' alignment with [EPA's FY 2018-2022 Agency Strategic Plan](#), important input received from states throughout the process, and a shift from enforcement to compliance following her [2018 memo](#).

The six selected NCIs are:

- Creating Cleaner Air for Communities by Reducing Excess Emissions of Harmful Pollutants from Stationary Sources
- Reducing Hazardous Air Emissions from Hazardous Waste Facilities
- Stopping Aftermarket Defeat Devices for Vehicles and Engines
- Reducing Significant Noncompliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
- Reducing Noncompliance with Drinking Water Standards at Community Water Systems
- Reducing Risks of Accidental Releases at Industrial and Chemical Facilities

A seventh area, reducing childhood lead exposures and associated health impacts, is not an NCI for this cycle but will remain a priority in OECA's work.

For more information about the NCIs, see [here](#). [MacCartney]

## **U.S. EPA Responds to State, ECOS Comments in National Program Guidance Documents**

On June 14, U.S. EPA released its final FY 2020-21 [National Program Guidance \(NPG\) documents](#). EPA revised the draft documents and responded to public comments following a 30-day comment period in April, during which ECOS hosted calls on four of the seven NPG documents for state officials.

The agency addressed public comments from six state agencies and several tribes and associations, including ECOS. Major areas of focus in state and association comments included: the CAA §103-105 funding switch and overall requested funding levels/allocation methodologies; vehicle engine tampering in the National Compliance Initiatives (NCI); and the scope of various performance measures (whether they apply to states or only EPA).

NPGs, which communicate EPA's operational planning priorities, strategies, and key activities for advancing the agency's Strategic Plan, also guide grant work planning with states, tribes, and territories. This NPG cycle saw a new and improved early engagement process through which state commissioners shared their priorities with their Regional Administrators.

Please contact [Owen McAleer](#) with questions or to request ECOS call summaries or other resources. [McAleer]

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## **State News You Can Use**

[Colorado Issues Ban on Training with PFAS Firefighting Foams](#)

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[Texas and Mexico Sign Binational Agreement on Environmental Cooperation](#)

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[New York Announces Funding for Communities Impacted by Flooding](#)

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[Arkansas Spotlights EASE Collaborative on Reg](#)

## Streamlining and Permitting

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### Louisiana Showcases Innovations at Gulf Hypoxia Summit

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## **U.S. EPA News**

### **Citizen Science Quality Assurance Handbook Offers Insight for States**

This spring, U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development published a *Handbook for Citizen Science Quality Assurance and Documentation*. While the handbook is directed at citizen scientists, EPA expects that it will be helpful to state environmental agencies and others. The handbook educates citizen scientists about common expectations for quality assurance and documentation. State agencies may be interested in directing citizens or groups to the handbook so that their data may be of more value to the agency.

Watch for a workshop on citizen science at the September 24-26 ECOS Fall Meeting in Seattle! [Hanson]

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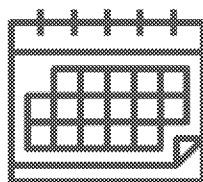
## **Career Opportunities**

### **Mining Commission Seeks Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs**

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) seeks a new Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at its headquarters in Herndon, Virginia, approximately 20 miles west of Washington DC. IMCC is a multistate governmental organization representing the natural resource, environmental protection, and mine safety interests of its 26 member states. It serves as a liaison with Congress and federal executive agencies for mining regulators in these states.

This is a high-level policy position offering a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information on the position and instructions for applying, contact IMCC Executive Director Thomas Clarke. The closing date for applications is **July 24**. [Parisien]

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## Upcoming Events

### ITRC on TPH Risk Evaluation at Petroleum-Contaminated Sites



ITRC will hold an online training course on *TPH Risk Evaluation at Petroleum-Contaminated Sites* on **June 19 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern**.

It is important to consider a comprehensive cumulative risk-based approach to total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) cleanup and long-term management. After attending this training, participants will be able to: recognize how TPH-impacted media interacts with the environment and changes over time; select appropriate analytic methods to match site objectives; apply the decision framework to determine when a site-specific target level may be more appropriate than a generic screening level for TPH; and use the [ITRC document](#) as a go-to resource for evaluating TPH risk at petroleum-contaminated sites.



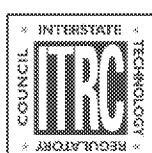
Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Infrastructure

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites states and other stakeholders to identical webinars on **June 20** and **June 28** regarding the Corps' *Revolutionize Civil Works* initiative. The initiative aims to expedite delivery of our nation's infrastructure by synchronizing actions, developing new tools, and streamlining activities. The webinars will provide an overview of actions to date, followed by an opportunity for discussion.

Webinar information is available on the Revolutionize Civil Works [website](#). [Klasen]

## ITRC on PFAS Contamination



ITRC invites state staff and others to attend an in-person PFAS training class in Raleigh, North Carolina on **June 21**. Taught by environmental experts, the class will focus on PFAS regulations, site characterization, risk assessment, treatment technologies, and more.

The class is free for states and many others, and travel scholarships are available for state staff traveling more than 50 miles.

Please contact [Tadbir Singh](#) for more information, or learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

## Shale Gas Caucus on Produced Water



Join the ECOS Shale Gas Caucus (SGC) for **ECOS** the next in its 2019 meeting and webinar series on Air & Methane, Alternative Compliance, & Produced Water. The webinar, planned for **June 26 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**, will feature various perspectives on produced water. Presentation topics will include discussion of produced water studies by U.S. EPA and the Groundwater Protection Council, an update on industry activities, and a preview of the Environmental Defense Fund's forthcoming literature review on the relative toxicity of the top ten most prevalent chemicals.

SGC members have received a calendar invitation. To participate in the webinar or join the SGC, please contact [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS. [Swanson]

## U.S. EPA on Methane Reduction

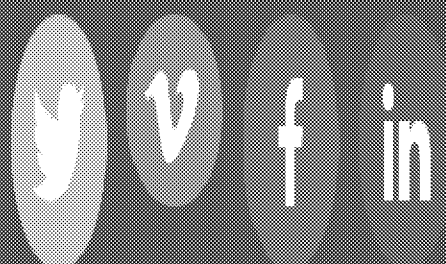
U.S. EPA's Methane Challenge Program invites states and others to a progress update webinar on **June 26 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**. In 2018, the Methane Challenge Program launched its first reporting season for the Best Management Practice commitment option during which partners submitted data on their progress towards meeting their commitments in 2017. During this webinar, EPA will share results from 2017 BMP reporting and information about the 2019 reporting season.

Participation in the webinar is free, but online registration is required [here](#). [Parisien]

## U.S. EPA on Risk Assessment Plans for Water Systems

U.S. EPA will host two webinars on **August 22 and September 5 at 1 p.m. Eastern** to provide a brief overview of the updated [Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool and Emergency Response Plan Guidances](#). EPA will also offer in-person trainings in each EPA region to provide water utilities and state representatives with a more detailed review of the new requirements.

More information about the webinars and in-person trainings is available [here](#). [Swanson]



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